



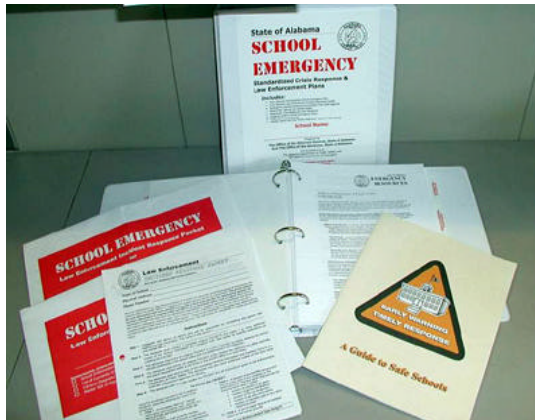
The Alabama Safe Schools Initiative

The “Alabama Safe Schools Initiative” is a comprehensive plan that provides training and resources to Alabama schools promoting safety and emergency response.

The Initiative is a joint effort by the State of Alabama Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Governor, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Education.

The Alabama Safe Schools Initiative is comprised of 5 parts:

(1) The Production and Distribution of Standardized Alabama “School Emergency” Crisis Notebooks.



Every Alabama school ... both public and private ... has been sent one copy of the Alabama Standardized “School Emergency” Crisis Notebook (distribution was in the school year 2000). The notebook contains information designed to assist schools in crisis situations, and provide uniform guidelines for schools to use in preparing their own emergency plans.

Contents of the notebook include:

- ? Each school’s individual school crisis management plan (provided by the school);
- ? Uniform guidelines for designing this plan, provided by the Alabama Department of Education;
- ? A classified local law enforcement crisis packet developed by the Alabama Department of Public Safety, consisting of a 3-page form that includes a checklist for schools to list contacts and information that law enforcement officials will need in a crisis;
- ? Lists of statewide resources for crisis or emergency situations;
- ? Information for parents on school safety;
- ? Background information/details on designing a crisis plan ;
- ? A sample (Pearl, Mississippi) crisis plan;

- ? Media planning tips; and ,
- ? A listing of other available Crisis Planning Resources, websites, organizations, and other resources related to school safety.

(2) Statewide School Safety Hotline (1-888-SAV-KIDS).



A toll-free hotline has been implemented in the State of Alabama as a way for students and adults to anonymously alert officials about information and tips regarding potential emergency crisis situations. Through the Alabama Safe Schools Initiative, the Alabama Safe Schools Initiative has equipped a state-of-the-art hotline to handle the increasing number of calls. Concerned parents and students with information regarding potential incidents of school-related violence may contact the Alabama Safe Schools Hotline by calling 1-888-SAV-KIDS (1-888-728-5437).

(3) Statewide Trainings.



In October of 1998, the Office of the Attorney General, hosted a statewide conference in Birmingham designed to provide information to teach school personnel how to create an integrated crisis management plan. The AG's *School Crisis Management Conference* was attended by approximately 2,000 community leaders, school professionals, and law enforcement officers.

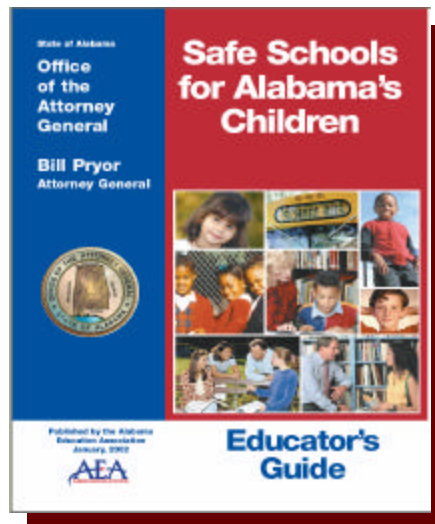
In April 2000, the Alabama Safe Schools Initiative sponsored a 3-day intensive School Safety Leadership workshop on school safety preparedness. Consisting of a “train-the-trainer” format, this workshop was conducted by the National School Safety Center, and trained 50 individuals representing statewide school, parent, and law enforcement agencies and organizations in areas regarding conducting school site assessments, developing a safe school plan, school/law enforcement partnerships, School Safety and the Law, and School Crisis Prevention and Response.

(4) A Public Service Announcement (PSA) “Prevent School Violence” Marketing Campaign



The *Alabama Safe Schools Initiative* Public Service Announcement Campaign is designed to promote the 1-888-SAV-KIDS hotline through television, radio, and billboard ads utilizing the slogan “Prevent School Violence: It’s Cool to Make The Call”. The campaign also included the distribution of posters, book wraps, and other promotional items within the state’s schools. Alabama television and radio broadcast stations interested in obtaining a copy of the PSA’s may contact the Office of Attorney General by calling (334) 242-7300.

(5) Development of “Safe Schools for Alabama’s Children: An Educator’s Guide”.



In an effort to assist Alabama’s Educators, the Office of the Attorney General prepared an educator’s guide for safe schools. This guide provides a general overview of issues related to school safety law, and explains the laws that school administrators rely on to promote safer schools, including: Search and Seizure; Dress Codes; Liability of School Official; Prohibition Against Possessing Certain Items at School; the Duty of School Officials to Report; Religious Guidelines for Schools; and other School-Related laws. This document was published and made available to all teachers by the Alabama Education Association. Teachers may obtain copies by contacting the Alabama Education Association (334) 834-9790.

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